

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1765 without my signature.

In 2004, I vetoed a substantially similar piece of legislation and stated my concerns with that measure. This bill fails to address those same concerns. I am sympathetic to citizens and legal residents of the United States who were impacted by the repatriation efforts within California between 1929 and 1944. A great injustice was done to many.

However, broadly drafted legislation that allows private litigation of potentially thousands of claims against the state, local governments, and private citizens is not the answer. It could burden the courts, result in increased and unplanned costs to the state, and may require a settlement account for any successful claim. If the Legislature should decide, as a matter of public policy, to provide compensation to individuals, a reparations fund should be created along with narrowly drafted language to expedite the processing of any claims. This would provide a quicker, more efficient and less expensive method of compensation for both the taxpayers and those impacted by repatriation.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger